

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7076

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PEKING 98

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 5)

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH SHANGHAI REVOLUTIONARY
COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WANG YI-PING

1. SUMMARY. DURING JANUARY 8 CONVERSATION WITH THE
AMBASSADOR, SHANGHAI REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE VC WANG
YI-PING EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF SINO-US RELATIONS
AND HIS APPRECIATION OF THE BMASSADOR'S CONTRIBUTION
TO THAT RELATIONSHIP. WANG EXPRESSED ORTHODOX PLEASURE
AT THE FALL OF THE GANG OF FOUR AND IMPLIED A PERMANENT
ROLE IN SHANGHAI FOR PENG CH'UNG. WANG SAID SHANGHAI'S
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION HAD INCREASED ONLY 1.2 PERCENT
IN 1976. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING AMBASSADOR GATES' JANUARY 7-9 VISIT TO
SHANGHAI, HIS REQUEST FOR A CALL ON A RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL
OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT RESULTED IN AN INVITATION
TO DINNER AT THE SHANGHAI MANSIONS HOSTED BY VICE
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CHAIRMAN OF THE SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL REVOLUTIONARY
COMMITTEE WANG YI-PING. WANG, WHO WAS DESCRIBED BY
CHINA TRAVEL GUIDES AS A VETERAN CADRE IN HIS LATE
FIFTIES WITH MANY YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE SHANGHAI
ADMINISTRATION, WAS RESERVED BUT CORDIAL THROUGHOUT
THE DINNER AND THE BRIEF CONVERSATION WHICH PRECEDED
IT. FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN POINTS MADE DURING HIS

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR:

3. SINO-US RELATIONS. WANG SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT NORMALIZATION WAS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND CLOSE FRIENDLINESS EXISTED. NONETHELESS HE NOTED SOME DIFFERENCE OF OPINION IN THE US ON THE FUTURE COURSE OF US-CHINESE RELATIONS. THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT WHILE THERE MIGHT BE SOME APPARENT DISAGREEMENT ON DETAILS, THERE WAS BROAD AGREEMENT WITHIN THE UNITED STATES ON THE OVERALL GOAL OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE US AND WE SHARED THE SAME STRATEGIC GOALS. WANG REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE COURSE OF THE EVENING TO THE "FRIENDLY RELATIONS" EXISTING BETWEEN THE PRC AND THE US AND OF THE NEED FOR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THEM. HE EXPRESSED, IN PARTICULAR, APPRECIATION OF THE AMBASSADOR'S CONTRIBUTION TO SINO-US RELATIONS AND SAID HE HOPED THE AMBASSADOR WOULD CONTINUE THESE EFFORTS IN THE FUTURE.

4. PERSONALITIES. WANG SAID HE, HIMSELF, WAS PRINCIPALLY OCCUPIED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TEN URGAN DISTRICTS WHICH, TOGETHER WITH TEN RURAL COUNTIES, MAKE UP THE MUNICIPALITY OF SHANGHAI. IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S QUESTIONS, WANG SAID THAT PENG CH'UNG WAS NOW WORKING FULL-TIME IN SHANGHAI. SU CHEN-HUA AND NI CHIH-FU WERE PRESENTLY IN SHANGHAI BUT WERE ONLY WORKING "PART-TIME." SU STILL RETAINED HIS POSITION AS COMMISSAR OF THE PLA NAVAL FORCES AND CONFIDENTIAL

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NI HIS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE PEKING ADMINISTRATION.

5. INTERNAL POLITICS. THROUGHOUT THE DINNER. WANG RESTRICTED HIMSELF TO ORTHODOX EXPRESSIONS OF DELIGHT THAT THE GANG OF FOUR HAD BEEN OVERTHROWN AND OF FAITH KUO-FENG AND VICE PERMIER YEH. "CLASS STRUGGLE" WAS NOT MENTIONED DURING THE COURSE OF THE EVENING. TENG HSIAO-PING, ALSO, WAS NOT MENTIONED BY WANG. WHEN THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED IN PASSING TO THE FALL OF TENG AS ONE OF THE IMPORTANT EVENTS OF 1976, THE TRANSLATOR OMITTED THE REFERENCE IN TRANSLATION. THIS OMMISSION WAS THEN CORRECTED BY THE SHANGHAI FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT, WHO TRANSLATED THE ENGLISH PHRASE "FALL OF TENG" WITH THE CHINESE "HSIA T'AI LE." WANG DID NOT COMMENT.

6. ECONOMIC. WANG SAID THAT SHANGHAI'S INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION HAD AVERAGED 12 PERCENT GROWTH ANNUALLY SINCE LIBERATION. DUE TO THE HARMFUL INFLUENCE OF THE GANG OF FOUR, ONLY A 6.3 PERCENT GROWTH IN PRO-

DUCTION HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN 1975. IN 1976, PRO-
DUCTION HAD INCREASED ONLY 1.2 PERCENT OVER 1975,
DESPITE THE SHARP INCREASE IN PRODUCTION SINCE THE
SMASHING OF THE GANG OF FOUR. HE SAID SHANGHAI HAD
IEALWAYS BEEN FAVORED BECAUSE OF ITSM IMPORTANCE AND
BECAUSE OF ITS POLITICAL CENTER POSITION, IMPLYING TO
US THAT THE ECNONMIC SITUATION ELSEWHERE PROBABLY
SHOWED A POORER PERFORMANCE.

7. TACHAI CONFERENCE. WANG, WHO HEADED THE DELEGATION
TO THE CONFERENCE AND REPORTED ITS PROCEEDINGS WHEN
HE RETURNED TO SHANGHAI, SAID THAT SHANGHAI WAS NOW
CONDUCTING A LOCAL CONFERENCE TO FOLLOW-UP THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LEARNING FROM TACHAI HELD LAST
MONTH IN PEKING. MORE THAN 18,000 REPRESENTATIVES
FROM COUNTIES, COMMUNES AND PRODUCTION TEAMS WERE
ATTENDING. THE THREE MAJOR TASKS BEFORE THE SHANGHAI
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CONFERENCE WERE: (A) TO BE INFORMED ABOUT CHAIRMAN

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7077

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PEKING 98

LIMDIS

HUA'S AND VICE PREMIER CHEN YUNG KUEI'S SPEECHES AT
THE PEKING CONFERENCE AND ABOUT CHAIRMAN MAO'S SPEECH,

RECENTLY REISSUED, ON THE TEN MAJOR RELATIONSHIPS;
(B) TO CRITICIZE AND EXPOSE THE CRIMES OF THE GANG OF
FOUR; AND (C) TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE, PARTICULARLY ON
THE TECHNICAL SIDE OF ALL ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION.

8. ADMINISTRATION. WANG TALKED OF A DETERIORATING
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SHANGHAI MUNICIPALITY, UNDER
THE GANG OF FOUR, AND ITS NEIGHBORING PROVINCES. WANG
SAID THIS SITUATION HAD ALREADY IMPROVED GREATLY.
WANG NOTED THAT SHANGHAI WAS, IN FACT, TOO BIG TO
CONSTITUTE A VIABLE ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT, BUT THIS WAS
THE UNABOIDABLE RESULT OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT.
CHINA WAS NOW PURSUING A POLICY OF DECENTRALIZATION
AND DEVELOPING SMALLER POPULATION CENTERS ONLY IN
ORDER TO LESSEN THE PROBLEMS OF POLLUTION, MARKETING
AND SUPPLY, TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING THAT ACCOMPANY
URBANIZATION. THE NEW CENTERS WERE AIMED AT A MAXIMUM
OF 300,000 EACH, BUT THE LOGISTICS PROBLEMS RELATED TO
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THEIR CREATION WERE EXPENSIVE AND DIFFICULT AND WOULD
TAKE A LONG TIME.

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Message Attributes

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